Claims

What is claimed is:

5   1. A method of compiling a playlist of digital audio data files comprising the steps of:
        selecting a set of digital audio data files in response to a first user input;
        sequentially playing an audio clip from each one of the selected audio data
files; and
        including identifying data representative of the digital audio data file
10 associated with a currently playing audio clip to the playlist of digital audio data files
in response to a second user input.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each audio clip is taken from a predetermined
portion of its associated audio data file that is selectable by the user.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein each audio clip is taken from a portion of its
associated audio data file according to an audio clip parameter of an associated data
tag of the audio data file.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein each audio clip is taken from a portion of its
associated audio data file depending on a genre characteristic of the audio data file.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein each audio clip is played for a predetermined
duration selectable by the user.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein each audio clip continues to be played until the
user selects to add or not add the associated audio data file corresponding to the
currently playing audio clip to the playlist.

30 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing user selection of
one of a plurality of playlists to which to include the identifying data.

8. A digital audio data player comprising:

a data storage device for storing a plurality of digitally encoded audio data files;

a signal processing unit for receiving a selected collection of the stored digitally encoded audio data files, decoding an audio clip of each one of the stored digitally encoded audio data files of the selected collection, and playing the decoded audio clip of each one of the stored digitally encoded audio data files;

a user input device for accepting user input; and

a controller, coupled to the data storage device, the signal processing unit, and the user input device, for controlling the operation of the data storage device and the signal processing unit in response to user input,

wherein the controller allows inclusion of identifying data representative of the stored digitally encoded audio data file associated with a currently playing audio clip to a playlist of digitally encoded audio data files.

9. The digital audio data player of claim 8, wherein the controller allows inclusion of identifying data to a user selectable playlist of digitally encoded audio data files of a plurality of playlists of digitally encoded audio data files.

10. The digital audio data player of claim 8, wherein the controller is operative to take each audio clip from a predetermined portion of its associated audio data file that is selectable by the user.

11. The digital audio data player of claim 8, wherein the controller is operative to take each audio clip from a portion of its associated audio data file according to an audio clip parameter of an associated data tag of the audio data file.

12. The digital audio data player of claim 8, wherein the controller is operative to take each audio clip from a portion of its associated audio data file depending on a genre characteristic of the audio data file.

13. The digital audio data player of claim 8, wherein the controller is operative to play each audio clip for a predetermined duration.

14. The digital audio data player of claim 8, wherein the controller is operative to continue to play each audio clip until the user selects to add or not add the associated audio data file corresponding to the currently playing audio clip to the playlist.

15. In a digital audio data player, a method of compiling a playlist of digital audio data files comprising the steps of:

allowing user selection of a plurality of audio data files;

sequentially playing an audio clip from each one of the selected plurality of audio data files; and

during playing of an audio clip, populating a playlist with identifying data representative of the stored audio data file associated with the currently playing audio clip in response to user input.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of allowing user selection of one of a plurality of playlists to which to include the identifying data.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein each audio clip is taken from a predetermined portion of its associated audio data file selectable by the user.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein each audio clip is taken from a portion of its associated audio data file according to an audio clip parameter of an associated data tag of the audio data file.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein each audio clip is taken from a portion of its associated audio data file depending on a genre characteristic of the audio data file.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein each audio clip is played for a predetermined duration selectable by the user.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein each audio clip continues to be played until the user selects to add or not add the associated audio data file corresponding to the currently playing audio clip to the playlist.